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(54) **Multi-antenna diversity system with MIMO encoder/decoder**

(57) The encoding system includes a feed unit receiving data and producing N data streams, where N is at least two. Each of N encoders receives a respective one of the N data streams and produces an encoded data stream. A multiple input multiple output (MIMO) encoder receives the N encoded data streams and encodes the N encoded data streams into M output data stream for transmission by M transmit antennas, where

M is at least two. In the decoding system, a MIMO decoder receives T data streams from T receive antennas and decodes the T data streams into the N encoded data streams. Each of N decoders receives a respective one of the N encoded data streams from the MIMO decoder and produces N decoded data streams. A combiner combines the N decoded data streams into an output data stream.

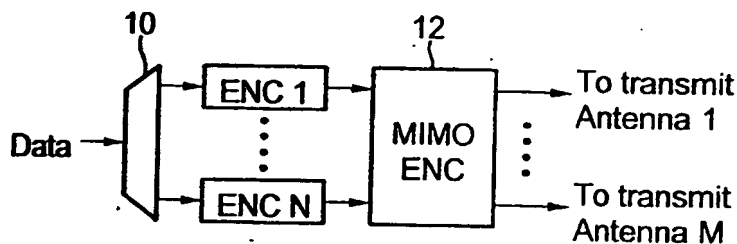


FIG. 1

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Description

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

1. Field of the Invention

[0001] The present invention relates to the field of telecommunications; and more particularly, an encoding and decoding systems for a multi-antenna transmitter and multi-antenna receiver, respectively.

2. Description of Related Art

[0002] Many of the new multiple antenna schemes proposed for high-speed wireless communication involve dividing the data for transmission into a number of streams equal to the number of antennas. An encoder is associated with each antenna, and each encoder encodes the data stream being sent to the associated antenna. As such, independently encoded data streams are sent from each of the transmit antennas and then canceling of the interference between the streams at the receiver is performed before decoding. While using multiple antenna schemes allows for an increase in the data transmission rate (often called throughput), a constant demand exists for ways of increasing the data transmission rate.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

[0003] The encoding system according to the present invention produces greater throughput by using a multiple input multiple output (MIMO) encoder to encode output from individual encoders into a number of data streams for transmission. According to the invention, data is divided into N data streams and encoded by N encoders. The MIMO encoder then encodes the N encoded data streams into M output streams. The M output streams are then transmitted by M antennas.

[0004] The number of encoders, N, can be less than, greater than or equal to the number of output streams, M. In one embodiment, N is 2, M is 4 and the MIMO encoder uses the double space time transmit diversity (DSTTD) algorithm.

[0005] By individually encoding data streams and then MIMO encoding the data streams, a greater throughput is achieved.

[0006] On the receive side, the decoding system includes a MIMO decoder that receives T data streams from T antennas, where T is not necessarily greater than M. The MIMO decoder decodes the T received data streams into the N received encoded data streams, which are then respectively decoded by N decoders. The N decoders correspond to the N encoders, and each of the N decoders uses the decoding algorithm corresponding to the encoding algorithm used by the corresponding encoder. A combiner combines the output of the N decoders into an output data stream.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0007] The present invention will become more fully understood from the detailed description given herein below and the accompanying drawings which are given by way of illustration only, wherein like reference numerals designate corresponding parts in the various drawings, and wherein:

Fig. 1 illustrates an embodiment of the encoding system according to the present invention; and
Fig. 2 illustrates an embodiment of the decoding system according to the present invention.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

[0008] Fig. 1 illustrates an embodiment of the encoding system according to the present invention. As shown, a demultiplexer 10 receives data for transmission and demultiplexes the data into N data streams. N encoders ENC1-ENCN respectively receive the N data streams and encode each data stream by error-correcting code(s). The N encoders ENC1-ENCN in one embodiment use the same encoding algorithm. In another embodiment, each of the N encoders ENC1-ENCN uses a different encoding algorithm, and in yet another embodiment, at least two of the N encoders ENC1-ENCN use the same encoding algorithm, while the others of the N encoders ENC1-ENCN use different encoding algorithms. In general the N encoders ENC1-ENCN use any well-known encoding algorithm such as Turbo codes, convolutional codes, etc.

[0009] A multiple input multiple output (MIMO) encoder 12 receives the N encoded data streams output from the N encoders ENC1-ENCN and encodes the N encoded data streams into M output data streams for transmission on M antennas. The MIMO encoder 12 operates according to any well-known MIMO encoding algorithm such as space time orthogonal or quasi orthogonal block codes.

[0010] In one embodiment of the present invention, the number of encoders N is two and the number of transmit antennas M is four. Hence the MIMO encoder 12 encodes two individually encoded data streams into four output data streams. In this embodiment, the MIMO encoder 12 uses the double space time transmit diversity (DSTTD) encoding algorithm. However, it should be understood that the present invention is not limited to using two encoders and generating four output data streams. It should be further understood that the present invention is not limited to having N less than M. Instead, N can equal M or in other embodiments, N is greater than M. And, the MIMO encoding algorithm that produces the greatest throughput will vary depending on the number of encoders N and transmission antennas M. Furthermore, the encoding system designer will have to weigh the tradeoffs between encoding algorithms and

the required processing resources.

[0011] In the present invention, the encoded data streams undergo MIMO encoding prior to transmission. The MIMO encoding is done in conjunction with the individual encoding performed by the N encoders ENC1-ENCN.

[0012] Fig. 2 illustrates a decoding system according to an embodiment of the present invention. As shown, a MIMO decoder 20 receives T data streams from T antennas, and decodes the T data streams into N encoded data streams. N decoders DEC1-DECN respectively decode the N received encoded data streams according to the error-correcting algorithms employed to produce the N encoded data streams. A multiplexer 22 combines the N decoded data streams to produce output data.

[0013] The N decoders DEC1-DECN correspond to the N encoders ENC1-ENCN, and each of the N decoders uses a decoding algorithm corresponding to the encoding algorithm used by the corresponding one of the N encoders ENC1-ENCN.

[0014] It should also be understood that the number of receive antennas T is not necessarily greater than the number of transmission antennas M.

[0015] The invention being thus described, it will be obvious that the same may be varied in many ways within the scope of the following claims.

Claims

1. An encoding system for a multi-antenna transmitter, comprising:
 - a feed unit receiving data and producing N data streams, where N is at least two;
 - N encoders, each encoder receiving a respective one of the N data streams and producing an encoded data stream;
 - a multiple input multiple output (MIMO) encoder receiving the N encoded data streams and encoding the N encoded data streams into M output data stream for transmission by M antennas, where M is at least two.
2. The system of claim 1, wherein each of the N encoders operates according to a same encoding algorithm.
3. The system of claim 1, wherein one of the N encoders operates according to a first encoding algorithm, another of the N encoders operates according to a second encoding algorithm, and the first and second encoding algorithms are different.
4. The system of claim 1, wherein the MIMO encoder operates according to the double space time transmit diversity (DSTTD) algorithm.
5. A decoding system for a multi-antenna receiver, comprising:
 - a multiple input multiple output (MIMO) decoder receiving T data streams and decoding the T data streams into N data streams;
 - N decoders, each decoder receiving a respective one of the N data streams and producing N decoded data streams; and
 - a combiner combining the N decoded data streams into an output data stream.
6. The system of claim 5, wherein each of the N decoders operates according to a same decoding algorithm.
7. The system of claim 5, wherein one of the N decoders operates according to a first decoding algorithm, another of the N decoders operates according to a second decoding algorithm, and the first and second decoding algorithms are different.
8. The system of claim 5, wherein the MIMO decoder operates according to the double space time transmit diversity (DSTTD) algorithm.
9. An encoding and decoding system for a communication system having multi-antenna transmitter and multi-antenna receiver, comprising:
 - a feed unit receiving data and producing N data streams, where N is at least two;
 - N encoders, each encoder receiving a respective one of the N data streams and producing an encoded data stream;
 - a multiple input multiple output (MIMO) encoder receiving the N encoded data streams and encoding the N encoded data streams into M output data stream for transmission by M transmit antennas, where M is at least two;
 - a multiple input multiple output (MIMO) decoder receiving T data streams from T receive antennas and decoding the T data streams into the N encoded data streams;
 - N decoders, each decoder receiving a respective one of the N encoded data streams from the MIMO decoder and producing N decoded data streams; and
 - a combiner combining the N decoded data streams into an output data stream.

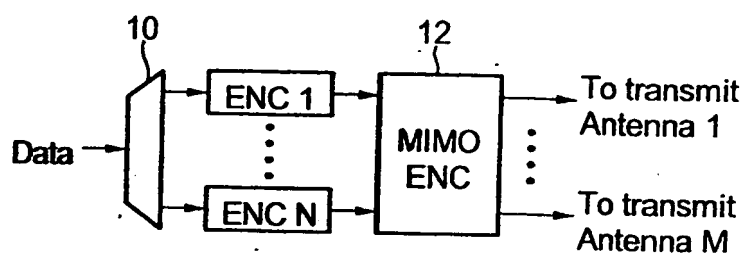


FIG. 1

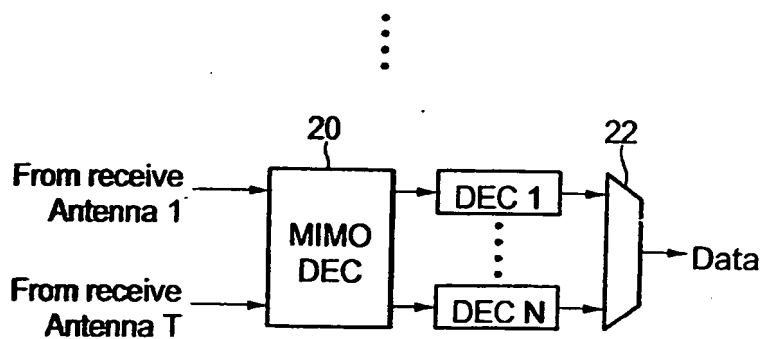


FIG. 2



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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 02 25 3958

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int.Cl.7)
E	EP 1 223 702 A (LUCENT TECHNOLOGIES INC) 17 July 2002 (2002-07-17) * the whole document *	1-9	H04L1/06
A	WO 00 14927 A (KONINKL PHILIPS ELECTRONICS NV) 16 March 2000 (2000-03-16) * abstract * * page 17, line 15 - page 18, line 20 * * figure 2 *	1-9	
			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.7)
			H04L
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search THE HAGUE		Date of completion of the search 24 September 2002	Examiner Toumpoulidis, T
<p>CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS</p> <p>X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document</p> <p>T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document</p>			

EPO FORM 1503 03.88 (P0401)

**ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT
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EP 02 25 3958

This annex lists the patent family members relating to the patent documents cited in the above-mentioned European search report.
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24-09-2002

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